

**From:** Richard Long, TD, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills  
Matt Dunkley, CBE, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

**To:** Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee -15  
November 2019

**Subject:** **Proposal to expand West Hill Primary Academy, Dartford Road, Dartford, DA1 3DZ by increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 72 places to 90 places from September 2020**

**Classification:** **Unrestricted**

**Decision Number:** **19/00084**

**Future Pathway:** Cabinet Member Decision of Paper

**Electoral Division:** Dartford West, Jan Ozog

**Summary:**

This report informs members of a proposal to expand West Hill Primary Academy from 72 places to 90 places in September 2020.

**Recommendation:**

The Children's, Young People and Education Committee is asked to CONSIDER and ENDORSE, or MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to endorse a proposal to expand West Hill Primary Academy, Dartford Road, Dartford, DA1 3DZ increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 72 places to 90 places from September 2020.

**1. Introduction**

1.1. Kent County Council (KCC) as the Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available. The County Council's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2019-23 is a five-year rolling plan which is updated annually. It sets out our future plans as Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision across all types and phases of education in Kent. A copy of the plan can be viewed from this link:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/education-provision>

1.2. It is anticipated that there will be significant short and medium-term pressure for Year R places in the West Dartford Planning Group which indicates that additional capacity will be needed for 2020/21 and continuing for later years. In 2021 there

is forecast to be a deficit of 4 places, increasing to a deficit of 16 for September 2022.

- 1.3. West Hill Primary Academy has a Published Admission Number of 72. KCC proposed an expansion of the school to take the PAN to 90 (3FE). The school currently has a permanent infrastructure that can accommodate a PAN of 72. Additional building work will be undertaken to expand the school to be able to offer 90 places per year.

## **2. Alternative Proposals**

- 2.1. West Hill Primary Academy is a popular school and the proposal to increase the number of primary places at the school is therefore, in line with the expectation of expanding popular & successful schools. The proposal will add an additional 18 places taking the school PAN up to 90 for September 2020. It will be achieved through building additional accommodation on the West Hill site.
- 2.2. There are five primary schools in the West Dartford Planning Group. Of these, Oakfield Primary Academy and Wentworth Primary School have already been expanded to their site capacity. Our Lady's RC Primary School and Westgate Primary School would be too expensive to expand, as their sites are too constrained. The only option is West Hill Primary Academy.

## **3. Financial Implications**

### **Capital**

- 3.1. A feasibility study has been carried out which estimates the cost of delivery being between £2.2m and £2.4m, wholly funded by the CYPE Basic Need Capital Budget.
- 3.2. In line with the agreement of Cabinet Committee on 7 May 2019, the capital figure reported here is a budget estimate for information only. Subject to Members support for the proposal to progress, these estimates will be refined as detailed design work is undertaken and the scheme progresses through the planning process. Following receipt of planning permission, the refined cost estimate will be presented to Infrastructure Commissioning Board and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills for a key decision to be made.
- 3.3. If Members support the progression of this proposal, capital will be spent developing the design. This expenditure will be below the level requiring a key decision and within that delegated to officers.

### **Revenue**

- 3.4. Should the scheme progress, £6,000 per new learning space will be provided towards the cost of furniture and equipment. This will be given to the school to purchase the required equipment.
- 3.5. In addition, an allowance of up to £2500 may be payable to outfit the teaching room with appropriate ICT equipment, such as touch screens or projection equipment.

### **Pupil Growth Funding**

The school will receive growth funding in accordance with the Pupil Growth Policy established by KCC and its Schools' Funding Forum.

### **3.6. Human**

The school will appoint additional staff as it grows over the years.

## **4. Kent Policy Framework**

4.1. The 'Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, 2019-23 identified a pressure on 'Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement (2015-2020)'.

4.2. The provision of sufficient school places is a statutory duty and contributes to the Strategic Business Plan Priorities to ensure that "Children and Young People in Kent get the best start in life".

## **5. Consultation**

5.1. A Public Consultation ran from 8th October 2019 to 12th November 2019, with a drop-in event for stakeholders to raise issues and concerns on 6th November 2019. The consultation included the community and other stakeholders, including the following groups:

- All schools in the Dartford Borough
- Elected Members (Kent County Council, Dartford Borough Council)
- Parish and Town Councils
- Local MPs
- Dioceses of Rochester and Southwark
- Church Groups
- Residents Groups
- Children's Centres, Community and Voluntary Groups, Youth Groups

### **Responses**

5.2. A verbal update on the responses received will be provided by the Area Education officer in this meeting.

## **6. Views**

### **6.1. The Local Member**

Jan Ozog has been informed of the proposal.

### **6.2. Area Education Officer:**

The analysis of the demand for primary provision in the area, indicates that there are immediate and future pressures and we urgently need the additional capacity provided by this proposed expansion. I therefore support the proposal.

## **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1. The West Dartford Planning Group is forecast to have a deficit of Year R places that will increase in subsequent years
- 7.2. West Hill Primary Academy is the only remaining option for expansion in the planning group.

## **8. Recommendations**

8.1. The Children's, Young People and Education Committee is asked to CONSIDER and ENDORSE, or MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to endorse a proposal to expand West Hill Primary Academy, Dartford Road, Dartford, DA1 3DZ increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 72 places to 90 places from September 2020.

## **9. Background Documents**

- 9.1 Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020  
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-thecouncil/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/increasing-opportunitiesimproving-outcomes>
- 9.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision  
[www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision](http://www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision)
- 9.3 Equality Impact Assessment  
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-consultations#tab-1>

## **8. Contact details**

*Report Author:*

Ian Watts  
Area Education Officer –North Kent  
Tel number: 03000 414302  
[ian.watts@kent.gov.uk](mailto:ian.watts@kent.gov.uk)

*Relevant Director:*

Keith Abbott  
Director of Education Planning and Access  
03000 417008